

counter every day. Madam Speaker, Erby Walker was an Atlanta icon and his service to his community must not be forgotten.

#### HONORING READE MONTGOMERY

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reade Montgomery of Blue Springs, Missouri. Reade is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1058, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reade has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Reade has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Reade Montgomery for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SALUTES CONSTITUTION WEEK

##### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week. This marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing Nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Madam Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.

Our Constitution has served us well for over 200 years, but it will continue as a strong, vibrant, and vital foundation for freedom only so long as the American people remain dedicated to the basic principles on which it rests. Thus, as the United States continues into its third century of constitutional democracy, let us renew our commitment to, in the words of our Constitution's preamble: "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. . . ." I know that the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution joins with me in urging all Americans to renew their commitment to, and understanding of, our Constitution, particularly during our current time of crisis, when Americans are fighting overseas to defend our liberties here at home.

#### HONORING BRANDON MESSINA

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 18, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon Messina of Blue Springs, Missouri. Brandon is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brandon has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon Messina for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF EFFECTIVE STATE-BASED ALCOHOL REGULATION

SPEECH OF

##### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 415, which would celebrate 75 years of effective state-based alcohol regulation since the repeal of Prohibition.

On May 5, 2008, I introduced H. Con. Res. 341 with the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. COBLE, to recognize the 75th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition and to commemorate the effective state-based regulation of alcohol.

This legislation has 98 cosponsors.

In order to bring the resolution to the floor today, Mr. COBLE and I re-introduced it as H. Con. Res. 415.

I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for working with me on this important resolution.

In 1919, the 18th amendment prohibited "the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors."

During Prohibition, the United States experienced a dramatic increase in illegal activity including unsafe black market alcohol production, a growth in organized crime, and increasing noncompliance with alcohol laws.

It was not uncommon for consumers to fall victim to counterfeit or tainted alcohol, with disastrous results including blindness or brain damage.

For example, the patent medicine Jamaica ginger, or "Jake," was often consumed by those desiring to circumvent the ban on alcohol. In response, the Treasury Department mandated changes in the formula to make it undrinkable.

In an attempt to fool government testing, unscrupulous vendors would sometimes adulterate their Jake with an industrial plasticizer. As a result, tens of thousands of victims suffered paralysis of their feet and hands—usually, this paralysis was permanent.

Other amateur distillers used old automobile radiators to distill liquor, and the resulting product was dangerously high in lead salts—which usually led to fatal lead poisoning.

On December 5, 1933, the United States ratified the 21st amendment, repealing Prohibition and restoring the control of alcohol regulation to the States.

For 75 years, this regulatory system has allowed each state to adopt individual laws that fit the beliefs of the residents of each State.

State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, and public health officials in each State have developed and implemented effective policies that have protected consumers and encouraged safe and responsible consumption.

While the United States now enjoys the safest and most responsible alcohol distribution network in the world, cases of tainted or counterfeit alcohol continue to occur across the globe.

Just yesterday in the United Kingdom, a police raid found 1,100 bottles of fake vodka that may blind consumers, many using the SPAR Imperial label.

British officials believe it is likely that more of the vodka is on the market. Small shops and stores in particular have been told to be on the lookout.

The potential for counterfeit alcohol and unscrupulous vendors remains a threat throughout the world today, and presents a real danger to consumers.

The state-based system for regulating alcohol in the United States has served as one of the safest and most responsible systems for protecting consumers from tainted or counterfeit alcohol.

I think it is fitting to salute the State lawmakers, regulators, law enforcement officers, and public health officials that have made this regulatory system successful.

I'd like to thank the Judiciary Committee, specifically Chairman JOHN CONYERS and Ranking Member LAMAR SMITH, for their support in allowing us to consider this resolution today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of the repeal of Prohibition, and in commemorating the effective state-based system of alcohol regulation.

Vote "yes" on this important resolution.